

# Sky Mountain Charter School

"We believe in educating each of our students for the 21st century by providing individualized learning opportunities that incorporate parental participation, choice, and involvement in curricula offered in personalized learning environments and small learning communities."

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## Important Dates to Remember

Sept. 15-Dec. 31: Fresh and Easy Fundraiser  
Oct. LR Mtg: 1<sup>st</sup> Writing Assignment due  
Oct. 17-21: Midterm review/exams for "A-G"  
    SME Algebra course  
Nov. LR Mtg.: 1<sup>st</sup> Writing Assignment graded  
    by the ES and returned to families  
Nov. 1: CAHSEE ELA grades 11 & 12  
Nov. 2: CAHSEE Math grades 11 & 12  
Nov. 11: Veterans Day-NO SCHOOL  
Nov. 16: 2<sup>nd</sup> Allotment of funding available  
Nov. 21-25: Thanksgiving Break-NO SCHOOL  
Dec.12-16: "A-G" SME Algebra course work due  
Dec.19-Jan. 2: Winter Break-NO SCHOOL  
Jan. LR Mtg.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Writing Assignment Due  
Jan. 3-6: Final review/exams for "A-G"  
    SME Algebra course  
Jan. 6: SME Coursework deadline  
Jan. 13: Last day of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Day-NO SCHOOL

Jan. 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester begins  
Jan. 30: Last day to add/drop HS courses for  
    2<sup>nd</sup> semester  
Jan. 31: Last day to add/drop an SME course  
    for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester  
Feb. LR Mtg.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Writing Assignment graded  
    by the ES and returned to families  
Feb. 7: CAHSEE ELA grades 10, 11, & 12  
Feb. 8: CAHSEE Math grades 10, 11, & 12  
Mar 1-5: PFT testing window for 5<sup>th</sup>,  
    7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>  
Mar. 6: STAR Writing test for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  
Apr.2-6: Spring Break-NO SCHOOL  
April 16-May 5: STAR testing window  
Apr. 23-May 18: Scantron/WRAT testing  
    window  
May 8: CAHSEE ELA Make-up  
May 9: CAHSEE Math Make-up  
May 24: Last Day of School

# Letter from the Director

Dear Sky Mountain Families,

Welcome back to another great school year! The school continues to receive positive feedback regarding the educational options that our families are provided within the framework of a public school. Sky Mountain Charter School is a very unique school with a passionate staff and committed families, all working together toward the goal of providing an individualized public education. Your education specialist (ES) will work with you this year to develop curriculum options to best meet the needs of each of our students.

Sky Mountain is actively involved in the WASC renewal process to determine what our strengths are as a school, as well as areas in which we can grow and improve upon to better serve our families. We look forward to our visit with the WASC committee in February 2012. Our administrative team and education specialists have been working diligently toward completing the WASC requirements to prepare for this visit. We also have devoted parents and students participating in our home groups and focus groups who are giving generously of their time to support the school.

Our theme this year is "Renewal." Sky Mountain is focused on not only our WASC renewal, but also our charter renewal. We have chosen this theme in order to stay renewed and focused on our common goals as a school, to continue to make Sky Mountain the best it can be.

Shana Fisk  
Director



# Community Building

## WASC Renewal Update

### Why WASC Accreditation Makes A Difference

We have been off to a running start this school year working on our WASC accreditation! Why is WASC accreditation so important to our school, you might wonder? The following reasons are outlined on the [WASC website](#):

- Certification to the public that the school is a trustworthy institution of learning
- Validates the integrity of a school's program and student transcripts
- Fosters improvement of the school's programs and operations to support student learning
- Assures a school community that the school's purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable educational program
- A way to manage change through regular assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring and reassessment
- Assists a school/district in establishing its priority areas for improvement as a result of the perpetual accreditation cycle that includes:
  - School self-assessment of the current educational program for students
  - Insight and perspective from the visiting committee
  - Regular school staff assessment of progress through the intervening years between full self-studies



Krista Woodgrift *Advisor*

### Student and Parent Home Groups

Not only are ESs, school staff, district members, and IEM personnel working toward our WASC accreditation by meeting in groups, but parents and students have also been contributing in focus and home groups to take an in-depth look at our school. These meetings have been such a valuable learning experience for Sky Mountain Charter School. The meetings provide the opportunity for us to reflect on the school's strengths and also to determine areas of growth. We are very excited about some new helpful tools and resources that are now available to our high school students and parents that are a result of this process (please see the separate article on this and/or check with your ES for more information).

We would like to pay a special thanks to the parents and students who are working on our home and focus group team. Your feedback is much appreciated and valued.

#### Student Home Group:

Aaron Denney	Lindy Rzonca
Audrey Bourgeois	John Holbach
Kassidy Ringhofer	Nicole Rockafellow
Emily Stewart	Sophia Eagen
Rebekah Smith	Isabel Prieto-Esparza
Rachel Smith	Amanda Way
Jacob Foth	Karianne Tschantre
	Veronica Collins

#### Parent Home Group:

Josie Holbach	Shelly Rzonca
Danyale Dumont	Irene Prohoroff
Heidi Denney	Margaret Rockafellow
Julie Bourgeois	Elizabeth Eagen
Jay Ringhofer	Manuela Esparza
Sherrie Stewart	Pam Tschantre
Deborah Smith	Adrienne Collins
Julie Foth	Lora Way

### A Couple of Reminders from our School Secretary

1. If you would like a Sky Mountain school ID card for your student, please email me a JPEG attached image of your child or you can mail me a 1"x1" photograph to 4535 Missouri Flat Road, Ste 1A Placerville, CA 95667. Once I have received an ID card request and image, you will receive the student ID card in the mail within 2 weeks.
2. This fall, I will begin calling new families for feedback on the enrollment process and to touch base and see how things are going. Your input and feedback is very important to us. I look forward to speaking with all of you.
3. All SMCS families will be receiving a school survey through our One Call email notification system in the spring. Again, this feedback is valued by SMCS administration. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide your input and submitting the survey.
4. As the SMCS Parent Council Secretary, I would like to send out a reminder on behalf of the fundraising subcommittee. When you shop at Target and use your Target Red Card, you get a 5% discount and earn money for the school of your choice. You can register your Target Red Card to sponsor SMCS at [www.targetredcard.com](http://www.targetredcard.com) and follow the prompts.

I have had the privilege of speaking with so many of you, and I'm excited for a great year! I am available Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm by phone at #800-979-4436 or email at [skyparents@ieminc.org](mailto:skyparents@ieminc.org). I am happy to talk with you or assist you in any way I can.

Sarah Coyan *SMCS School Secretary*

### Fresh and Easy Fundraiser



We have an opportunity to raise money for our school. No, you don't have to stand outside your local market and sell candy! Most of us live, work, or shop near or at a Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market. In order to raise money for our school all we have to do is shop at Fresh & Easy and save our receipts. Parents, family, friends, neighbors or anyone who would like to support our school can collect receipts from purchases made at any Fresh & Easy store between September 15, 2011 and December 31, 2011. All receipts that total \$20 or more should be turned in to your ES.

For every \$20 spent per transaction at any Fresh & Easy store our school will receive a \$1 cash donation. For example, a single receipt totaling \$39.99 is worth \$1, while a single receipt for \$40 is worth \$2, but a receipt for \$18.50 is not eligible. You cannot combine the total of the receipts.

But wait, there's more! This year, every school that raises \$500 or more through receipt collection will get an additional \$50 bonus.

But wait, there's even more! The school that raises the most money will receive an additional \$5,000 bonus!

So save your \$20 or more total Fresh & Easy receipts, turn them into your ES and watch the money come back to our school.

# Assessment Corner

## State Assessments

STAR Scores: Our school wide participation was 99%! We could not have done this without your support! Our official API and AYP school scores will be announced in February. This is due to a script error that occurred. Our school API scores have been estimated by the California Department of Education to be **763**. This would be a **23** point growth!

CAHSEE Scores: As a school, we have a 99% passing rate for the California High School Exit Exam! This is an incredible accomplishment!

EAP (Early Assessment of Readiness for College Program): The EAP is designed for any high school junior who is California State University bound. An additional math test is administered at STAR test in lieu of taking a college placement exam for math. The EAP for writing would be administered during the STAR writing test period for the same purpose.

## School Assessments

WRAT (Wide Range Achievement Test): The WRAT test is given to our kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Your education specialist can use this assessment to measure your child's basic academic skills in math, reading, writing, and sentence comprehension. As a parent of a kindergartener or first grader, you will receive a WRAT parent report that will inform you of how your student performed.

Scantron: The Scantron test is given to students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade. The Scantron test will assess your student up to four grade levels above or below the current grade level of your child. The Scantron report given to you by your education specialist will inform you of the grade level equivalency of your student and the three top gaps in learning for math and reading. As a parent, you may request Scantron worksheets from your education specialist to fill the gaps in learning so your student has a solid educational foundation.

## Tips for Test Prep

As a school, we strongly encourage parents to use test prep materials. It is important that our students arrive at testing feeling confident and prepared. This helps make testing a positive experience! There are several ways to participate in test prep. For an online test prep course, Study Island is a fun and interactive way for students to participate in test prep. Students may also use the state issued practice test to build confidence in their test taking skills ([www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp)). Buckle Down test prep provides lessons broken down to cover the state standards ([www.buckledown.com/c/@Slbq03w4lbgh6/Pages/home.web?state@CA](http://www.buckledown.com/c/@Slbq03w4lbgh6/Pages/home.web?state@CA)). This booklet can be done along with the current curriculum the student is using. For more ideas on test prep, please visit the assessment portion of our Sky Mountain website and click the appropriate grade level under "Test Prep Options" (<http://www.skymountaincs.org/assessment/index1.htm>).



## Sky Mountain Charter School Writing Assignment 2012

### **The Purpose:**

Our main purpose in giving the writing assignment is to provide our students with the opportunity to improve their writing skills. Your ES will provide the support that you need so that your child can grow as a writer. Our goal is not only to strengthen students' writing skills, but also to remove the fear and mystery surrounding the STAR and CAHSEE assessments, to build life skills by preparing our students for various college admission essays, and to provide valuable writing exposure. The writing assignment is designed to be a positive experience for the student by building on their writing strengths.

### **Who Must Participate:**

All students in grades 1-12 are expected to participate. The assignment is optional for Kindergarten, however Kindergarten prompts and support materials are included and we encourage our families to use these as writing practice. The prompts, directions, practice prompts, scoring rubrics and other helpful documents are available on the Sky Mountain Charter School website:

[http://skymountaincs.org/handbook/Curriculum/writing\\_assignments.html](http://skymountaincs.org/handbook/Curriculum/writing_assignments.html)

### **Due Dates:**

**October learning record meeting:** The ES will collect the writing sample and provide feedback to the student at the second learning record meeting.

**November learning record meeting:** The ES will return the scored sample.

**January learning record meeting:** The second writing sample is to be a revision of the first writing sample. The student should use the feedback provided by the ES and incorporate that feedback in writing a revision of the first writing sample. This second writing assignment, the revision, is due at the January learning record meeting.

The collection and return dates are planned in conjunction with state assessments and is an opportunity for the ES to provide feedback on the writing assignment prior to the administration of the California High School Exit Exam (February 7, 2012), and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade STAR Writing Test (March 6, 2012). The second writing samples will be evaluated and returned scored the following month. The student is to revise the prompt using the comments and suggestions made by the ES on the first prompt. Spelling words, grammar, and punctuation may be checked for the revision. Since this is a revision, the student may use a dictionary and/or a thesaurus to look up words. The parents should allow the student to do the revision on their own, in one sitting.

Parents may assist younger students as needed on the revision.

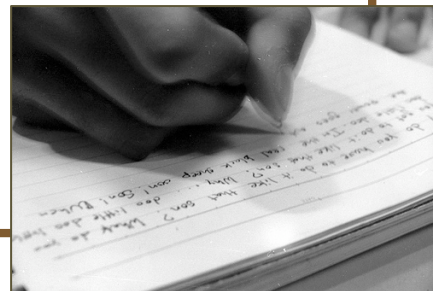
**March learning record meeting–** ES will return second scored writing sample to the students.

For more information, resources and guidance on this exciting writing opportunity please visit and explore this link:

[http://skymountaincs.org/handbook/Curriculum/writing\\_assignments.html](http://skymountaincs.org/handbook/Curriculum/writing_assignments.html)

Happy writing ☺

Katie Ringhofer *Advisor*



# Guidance

## Planning Ahead for High School

With the new school year in full swing it's easy to forget that high school students, in conjunction with their parents and education specialist, should be planning for the next semester and beyond.

Our new High School Manual and the updated "High School Options, Plans and Documents" link on our website are convenient tools to help in planning for high school and beyond. Both of these tools are located at <http://skymountaincs.org/guidance.html> We encourage you to take the time to become familiar with these resources.

Here are some reminders of important things to take care of now in advance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester:

- Community College Concurrent Enrollment – If you are interested in taking winter or spring courses at a community college you should contact the community college and apply now. Discuss this with your education specialist. Your education specialist will assist you with choosing courses and with Sky Mountain's pre-concurrent enrollment forms.
- Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) - Contact the ROP program in your county for a list of courses available. These are free and the course offerings are extensive.
- Plan your second semester courses with your ES.

## High School Q & A Parent Listserv Emails

We are pleased to announce a new service to our families, High School Q & A Parent Listserv Emails! Our education specialists will gather parent and student questions and submit them (and the answers) to their advisor and the guidance coordinator. These questions will be compiled into a question and answer email that will go out periodically to the parent listserv.



## SATs

The College Board offers the SAT several times a year. Many four-year universities and colleges require applicants to have taken the SAT. Although Sky Mountain Charter School does not administer this exam you are able to register for the test online and take it at a local high school. Registration and fees are the parent's responsibility. Information on the SAT is available at <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home> Please use Sky Mountain Charter School's code (054344) when registering for the exam.

High School SME Classes



Subject Matter Expert (SME) classes are a great option for parents and students who either don't want to use an online curriculum to meet the HQT requirements or who would like to work with the SME Teacher to create and individualize a course using approved curriculum. "A-G" SME are also available, but cannot be modified as they are designed to meet UC admission requirements and approved by the University of California (please refer the following article explaining "A-G" courses for more detailed information). The following SME courses are available for this year:

**English**

- English 9A & 9B
- A-G English 9A & 9B
- English 10A & 10B
- A-G English 10A & 10B
- English 11A & 11B
- A-G English 11A & 11B
- English 12A & 12B
- A-G English 12A & 12B

**Math**

- Algebra 1A & 1B
- A-G Algebra 1A & 1B
- Geometry A & B

**History**

- World History A & B
- A-G World History A & B
- US History A & B
- A-G US History A & B
- US Government A & B
- A-G US Government A & B

**Science**

- Biology A & B
- Life Science A & B
- Chemistry A & B

**"A-G" Courses**

"A-G" courses are classes approved by the University of California as meeting their admission requirements and are considered by the UC when students apply for university admission. For detailed information please visit the UC website: <http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ag/a-g/>, but there is also more information in our High School Manual regarding these courses and college entrance requirements.

Students desiring to go directly to a University of California campus from high school should strive to take all "A-G" courses. We have a number of Sky Mountain Subject Matter Expert courses (SME) that have been approved by the UC. Cornerstone Learning and Advanced Academics have also been added as approved vendors offering "A-G" courses and other "A-G" vendors include National University Virtual High School and Apex.



Students should consider taking lab science courses at their local community college as the UC does not allow online courses or "virtual labs" to meet the lab science requirements. Community college courses that are listed as "IGETC transferable" are generally accepted at all UC/CSU campuses and will cover the "A-G" requirement. We hope to add a Sky Mountain SME "A-G" biology course in the future.

UC bound students should also consider taking the SAT2 in any core course that is not on their transcript as "A-G." Passing the AP Exam may also be helpful in this situation. Please refer to the High School Manual for more information.

Private universities and individual UC campuses may have unique admission requirements. And as each student applicant is unique, it is critically important for parents and students to **check directly with the college or university of their choice regarding admission requirements.** Generally, students transferring to a private university or UC/CSU campus after completing two years at a community college are admitted based more on their community college transcript than on their high school transcript.

If you have questions or need assistance with any high school information please ask your education specialist.

# English Department

## Apple Apps for English Language Arts

The following apps can be used on iPhone, iTouch, and iPad devices, and the best part is that they're all FREE!

- Dictionary.com
- Miss Spell
- Amazon's Kindle
- Story Kit
- Exam Vocabulary Builder (Free Edition)
- Grammar Up (Free Edition)
- Paper Hangman (Lite)
- Madlibs
- Chicktionary (Lite)
- Weird Word of the Day
- BrainPop
- The CAHSEE Tutor-English Language Arts (Lite)



Melissa Stadler  
*English Department Chair*

## California Reading List (CRL)

Based on your child's score on the California English-Language Arts Standards Test, a specific list has been designated as appropriate for him or her in terms of reading difficulty and interest level.

This site has been developed to assist parents and students in selecting books written at a level of difficulty that corresponds with a child's ability to read based on a single test score. Drawn from California's recommended literature lists for students in kindergarten through grade twelve, the reading lists on this site have been specifically tailored to match the achievement level of each student who participated in the statewide assessment program during the previous spring.

Reading List Search Tool:  
[http://crl.startest.org/crl/CRL\\_Home.jsp](http://crl.startest.org/crl/CRL_Home.jsp)

# Science Department

## Need Help with Science State Standards?

The California Science Framework can be hard to navigate. Here's a great solution!! The below websites are excellent resources to help make the State Science Standards easy to access. You will find the standards listed by grade or subject, along with many resources for kids, parents, and teachers.

**SCORE Science** <http://scorescience.humboldt.k12.ca.us/fast/teachers/frame.htm>

Science State Standards Made Easy!! This website is an invaluable tool for parents and teachers! Each grade has a link with science standards listed out for easy reference. There are also resources such as "Kids Corner," "Teacher's Place," "Science Earth," "Ask A Scientist," and "Science Networks."

**The Sourcebook For Teaching Science** <http://www.csun.edu/science/standards/index.html>

This website, created by Dr. Norman Herr CSUN Professor, is an excellent resource for all things science! Here you can find the CA State Standards separated by subject, the complete California Standards Frameworks, assessment links, hands-on activity ideas, and many more Internet resources.

Jessica Bingman *Math and Science Department Chair*



# Helpful Tips and Information

## Physical Education Can Make You Smarter!

For some time, researchers have known that exercise changes the structure of your brain and can essentially make one 'smarter.' In addition to the health benefits, studies show that exercise can improve concentration, create new brain cells, and enhance academic achievement. Further, better fitness is correlated with higher I.Q. in children.



Physical education is not only important to keep kids healthy, it is also a legal requirement in California schools. Education codes state that elementary students must complete 200 minutes of physical education every 10 days and high school students must complete 400 minutes every 10 days. There are a variety of ways for families to address the physical education standards and complete the required number of minutes. Sky Mountain has hundreds of approved vendors to teach an array of skills and concepts in physical education. Your ES is a great resource to help you to find physical education classes in your area or give you a list of ideas to assist you in meeting the PE standards with your children.

In both elementary and high school grades it is important that for each learning period, new learning has taken place. Often times, students spend many weeks or months playing a particular sport and complete the required number of physical activity minutes, but have trouble reporting new learning for physical education. Physical education and physical activity are often used interchangeably but it is important to note the difference and understand that both contribute to a fit and healthy child. The California Department of Education defines the two:

**Physical education** instructional programs provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to establish and sustain physical activity as a key component of their lifestyle, as children, adolescents, and adults.

**Physical activity** is any bodily movement that is produced by the contraction of skeletal muscle and that substantially increases energy expenditure, including exercise, sport, dance, and other movement forms.

For parents wanting ideas to give their child a comprehensive physical education program, a good starting point would be the CA state standards. They can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/pestandards.pdf> as well as lists of age appropriate skills that children should master and standards that focus on educating children about the importance of a healthy and nutritious lifestyle. This can help parents address the need for new learning each learning period and at the same time expose their children to a multitude of new skills and concepts.

Your ES is available to answer any questions you may have about the physical education requirement and can also help you plan out a well-rounded physical education program for your child.



\*Education Code Section 51210 (elementary minutes requirement); Education Code Section 51222 (secondary minutes requirement); and Education Code Section 51225.3 (a)(1)(F) (high school graduation requirement).

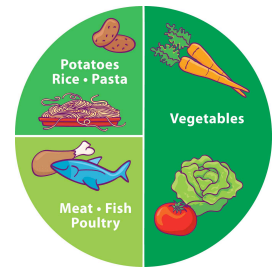
## Life Skills....PE and so much more!

Many of us are familiar with life skills as it relates to physical education, but there is so much more to the growth area of life skills that can be taught.

### Healthy Food Choices

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a great campaign called "Choose My Plate". This is teaching children the food pyramid and how to make healthy food choices. The following link provides free printable resources to help you teach your child.

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/tipsresources/printmaterials.html>



### Peer Relationships



It is very important for children to understand how to make friends, treat friends, and keep friends. The art of friendship is a life skill that children will use in different ways throughout their entire lives, so it is important to equip them with the tools to establish and maintain those friendships at an early age.

You can check out books from your local library focusing on friendships and peer relationships. These books will help at catalysts for discussions with your child.

### Drug Abuse Awareness

Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31<sup>st</sup> and helps to teach children to say no to illegal drugs. The Red Ribbon Coalition began the program 1985 and has worked passionately ever since to educate and inform children of all ages. The following is a link to the Red Ribbon Coalition website, which offers a history of the program, as well as resources for teaching.

<http://www.redribboncoalition.com/>



### Contributing to the Family and the Home

As children get older, they can begin to take on more responsibility at home and learn the life skill of taking care of a home and being a contributing member of the family. One great way to begin is to give your child the responsibility of household chores. You can encourage the child by creating a chore chart or starting a responsibility program.

Here is a link to a free program in which you can create your own customizable chore charts:

<http://www.dltk-cards.com/chart/index.html>

We have an approved vendor, Accountable Kids, which offers a full program on teaching responsibility to children, feel free to check it out: <http://accountablekids.com/>

Life skills is one of Sky Mountain required growth areas and it is encouraged to include life skills in your day-to-day teaching. If you have any further questions regarding life skills content or to vendors that may offer life skills curriculum, please contact your education specialist.

Jamee Block *Advisor*

## Transitions

The word "transition" evokes varied reactions and images for each of us. For many parents, the word is equated with positive change and growth for their children. For some, it is a time of excitement and, for others, it contributes to anxiety and uneasiness. It can create a melting of emotions - those uneasy feelings of excitement co-existing with fear. These parental emotions are often typically felt when their children meet certain milestones - lots of firsts. Those include the first day of kindergarten, junior high, high school and college. Whatever the stage that your children are at, transition is difficult for us, as grownups and can be equally, if not more difficult for our children.

It benefits all students to be supported in the transitions that they are experiencing. The parent who is choosing to provide an education in the home environment has a great deal of responsibility in making sure the transitions throughout the day are smooth as well as from week to week and month to month. It is these smooth transitions that will allow your child to learn effectively. The first step in creating these transitions is communicating to your child what the daily schedule will look like. You want to be able to create a daily schedule that is flexible, but one that honors your child's physical and emotional needs balanced with the requirements of providing a solid foundation of learning. You will also need to make them aware of the short-term goals and longer-term goals for academic learning.

The term "transition" is also a very important part of the special education process (IEP). For students, there are certain transition periods that an IEP can address. Those include changes from pre-school to kindergarten, 8th grade to high school, and high school to adulthood. The high school transition is legally mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In fact, this transition is so important that it is spelled out in the law. A student's first Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) must be completed by the time the student reaches the age of 16. Furthermore, the high school student is the most important part of the IEP team and should be included as the ITP is created to reflect what the students goals and aspirations are as an adult.

Whether your child is a special education student or a general education student, please include your education specialist and/or your Special Education teacher in any discussions about transitions (related to daily schedules or subject material or anything in between). Whether it is the age-old transition from relaxing summer days to the start of the busy school year, the transition from one grade to another, or one level of curricular difficulty to the next, we are here to support you. We, as educators, are walking hand in hand with you in the most important decision that you have made which is to educate your child with the love and patience only a parent can have. We are hopeful that the word "transition" will create positive thoughts as your child grows from dependence to independence.

*Maria Carr   Special Education Coordinator*

## Work Permits

Here are some helpful reminders regarding our work permits policy.

First, always apply for work permits through your education specialist! Your ES is an important part of this process. Once you send in all forms to your ES, he/she will then forward all the necessary paperwork to our Educational Services



Coordinator for processing. If the forms are sent by *parents* directly to our Educational Services Coordinator, there will be a delay in processing as all materials will have to be sent back to the ES for necessary paperwork before the Educational Services Coordinator can complete the request.

It has come to our attention that some parents have been informed that they can bypass the school and acquire an entertainment permit by sending the forms and their child's last report card to the California Department of Labor. Although the Department of Labor will process this request, the entertainment permit will only be temporary during the summer months when school is not in session. Once school has resumed, the Department of Labor will not grant entertainment permits without the proper paperwork from the student's school.



While we are on the topic of entertainment permits, please pay special attention to your child's entertainment permit expiration date. Start the application process at least two months in advance before the date of expiration. Additionally, the school will not send the entertainment permit request to the Department of Labor. Parents must mail, or walk in, their request for entertainment work permits.

Please be aware that the minimum turn-around time for a regular work permit or entertainment permit request to be processed is two weeks from the date it is received by the ES.

Important reminders:

- We are no longer requiring a copy of the student's social security card or birth certificate to process the permit request.
- Remember, always go through your ES to request any work/entertainment permits. If you bypass your ES, it will only slow down the process.
- If you don't receive your permit within the two week period, please contact your ES.

Mark Fisk *Education Services Coordinator*

# Group Educational Activities

Group Educational Activities (GEAs) are optional educational trips that we take as a school. They are a fun way to learn new things in a different environment! We have had an overwhelming response to our first semester GEAs. Between the four GEAs, we have almost 1200 students attending! Look for second semesters GEAs to be announced in November.

One new addition to our GEAs this year is our school mascot! Congratulations to Mikayla Morehead! Her name submission of "Jet" was chosen as the winner in the "Name the Mascot" contest. Mikayla will receive admission for herself and a guest to a second semester GEA of her choice plus a Sky Mountain T-shirt. Be on the lookout for Jet at all of our GEAs and be sure to bring your camera for a great photo opportunity!

Here are some important GEA reminders:

- Sign up early for GEAs. They fill up quickly!
- Parents need to stay with their children during the trip. Children should never be dropped off and told to meet a parent elsewhere.
- Bring a filled out permission slip with you the day of the trip. Those who bring their permission slips filled out and ready to go will have a quicker time getting in.
- Turn in a filled out original permission slip to your ES as soon as you sign up. Your space is not guaranteed until the slip is turned in!
- If you are unable to attend a GEA, please inform your ES immediately.
- Once the deadline passes, the trip is closed out and the tickets are purchased. Therefore, there are no refunds for student or parent tickets.
- In order for a student to attend a GEA, they must have a parent chaperone. The parent may purchase a ticket through Beth Gath.
- Approximately one week before the trip, you will receive an email from your ES confirming your participation in the GEA.
- Remember to arrive early to the GEAs. Late arrivals will not be admitted.
- When you arrive to a GEA, find the school representative who has the letter of your last name to check in and obtain information on how to proceed.
- Once the GEA is completed, learning must be documented with your ES at the following learning record meeting. In some instances, students may be required to submit a written assignment.

No late arrivals. Students arriving late to a field trip will not be granted admission.

**Deadline to sign up for all trips was September 9<sup>th</sup>**

Date/time	GEA	Description/Link to website	Price
Sept. 30 Arrive no later than 8:30am	LA County Fair	<a href="http://www.lacountyfair.com/2011/educationcommunity/fairKids.asp">http://www.lacountyfair.com/2011/educationcommunity/fairKids.asp</a>	FREE
October 21 Arrive no later than 8:30 am	Disneyland Energy and waves -or- Leadership in Action	<a href="http://www.disneyyouth.com/youth-education-series/">http://www.disneyyouth.com/youth-education-series/</a>	\$71
November 9 Arrive no later than 7: 00pm	Blue Man Group Sergerstrom Theatre Orange County	<a href="http://www.scfta.org/home/Events/EventDetail.aspx?EventID=1135&amp;NavID=82">http://www.scfta.org/home/Events/EventDetail.aspx?EventID=1135&amp;NavID=82</a>	\$27
December 6 Arrive no later than 8:30am.	Calico Ghost Town	<a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/parks/Parks/CalicoGhostTown.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/parks/Parks/CalicoGhostTown.aspx</a>	\$8.25

Sandy Barela *GEA Coordinator*